

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 57

February 2010

No. 2



Calendar

Thurs., Jan. 28	Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 pm; Land Use Task Force Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Feb. 11	Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Jan. 30	Town Dinner, Town Hall, 6 pm (see p 2)	Fri. Feb. 12	Film Society, <i>The Umbrellas of Cherbourg</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm; film 8 pm (see p 4)
Mon., Feb. 1	Monthly yard waste collection	Sat., Feb. 20	International Night, GPES, 6 to 9 pm (see p 5)
Sat., Feb. 6	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm	Mon., Feb. 22	LeMar exhibit opens, Penn Place (see p 3)
Sun., Feb. 7	GIVES Tea and Meeting, Town Hall, 3 to 5 pm (see p 3) (snow date, Feb. 21)	Wed., Feb. 24	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm (topic TBA)
Mon., Feb. 8	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Feb. 25	Senior Games and Tea, Town Hall, 1:30 pm; Land Use Task Force Mtg., Town Hall, 8 pm
Tues., Feb. 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm	Fri., Feb. 26	Pick up your March <i>Bugle</i> in the PO lobby

The Right Stuff

"The assembled masses!" said the Mayor, surveying an empty room. (Except for me. And then a few other people came in.)

Just before the meeting began, Councilmember Irons said she'd practically been *escorted* to the Town Hall that night by three deer.

Henri Keller rose, as the meeting officially got under way, to announce the next Film Society presentation, *Volver*.

We also got a Garrett Park Nursery School update. The bond bill application has been submitted and "the ball is rolling!"

In his Mayor's report, Chris took up the Nursery School issue, noting that we're moving along on the three aspects of the deal—finance, deed questions, and lease. Apparently a 1948 deed from the Department of Education to the Parks Department complicates our ability to have clear claim, so we need to see to this. Otherwise, the Council is currently preparing a lease.

A county meeting is coming up to discuss, among other things, Pepco's recently proposed massive streetlight fee increases.

Recalling John King's proposal last meeting that the town hire a consultant to help us make our case about reducing Strathmore Avenue traffic impact in connection with White Flint sector planning, the Mayor said, "I've asked Dick Pratt to recommend an individual who would be a traffic consultant specifically." A pretty lengthy discussion of traffic issues ensued, focusing on the extent to which traffic counts on Strathmore have changed over the years, and on the history of our efforts to control traffic on Strathmore.

In Council Reports, Phil Schulp reported that Garrett Park Elementary has sent parents a letter talking about possible reductions in the school's operating budget. They might have to cut some positions, perhaps in the Media Center. "Things are getting so tight now that the county is looking at education."

Jack Mandel thanked Butch and the rest of the maintenance crew for their incredibly hard work with all the snow. "They start at the wee small hours of the morning," remarked the Mayor. Ted Pratt in turn thanked the Council for giving the

(continued next page)

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crew the equipment they need. "You had the foresight to buy the right stuff."

Speaking of which, the Mayor—after noting that "our revenues have held up surprisingly well"—asked the Council to consider spending \$30,000 toward the purchase of a new truck for the town.

Councilmembers first asked Ted to explain the difference between a bed dump and a sliding dump (I fell asleep during the answer); then a more basic question was posed: "Why do we need three trucks?" (We already have a dump truck and a chipper.) Ted also answered this; I also zoned out.

"Why don't we go green?" asked a Councilmember. "Why not an electric truck?"

"I see only tears and heartache," responded Ted, meaning he doubted the crew would enjoy adjusting to an electric truck.

"Why not," asked another Councilmember, also thinking green, "a six-cylinder truck?"

"You won't get a one-ton vehicle with a six-cylinder motor," Ted responded.

On Jack Mandel's motion, the Council then voted to purchase a truck for the town.

Margaret Soltan

Citizens Association News

The Next Citizens Association meeting will be held on February 24 at 8 pm in the Town Hall.

Town Dinner, January 30. Every house has a junk drawer, and some have more than one. This drawer is often a home for the homeless or a place for items we need to stow somewhere, but don't know exactly the right location. Common elements of the drawer include tape, batteries, flashlights, and matches. Uncommon items can run the gamut, and many of these things say something about their owners. Come celebrate an evening of *Stories I Found in my Junk Drawer* at the GPCA Town Dinner in the Town Hall on January 30 at 6 pm (we'll sit down at 6:30).

As always, this is a potluck supper. Along with your own serving utensils, you are asked to bring a dish from one of the following categories: appetizers, salad and breads, main dish, or dessert (enough for 8 to 10 people). This year, we are also requesting that you bring your own alcoholic beverages. The Citizens Association will provide nonalcoholic beverages. A fee of \$5 will be collected at the door to cover the cost of decorations, drinks, and paper goods, and you can also pay your Citizens Association dues at the same time (\$10 for individuals and \$20 per family).

Since space is limited, please contact Mario Grande to make your reservation. He can be reached at 301-946-5930 or by e-mail at mfgrande@aol.com. Please be sure to state and spell your name, the number of people attending, and the dish you intend to contribute. Also, if you would be willing to help in the decoration of the Town Hall that day, please let him know.

Citizens Association Board. We are looking for more involvement from our residents. If you are interested in joining the board or in helping out with the Citizens Association, please call Chris Strong at 443-831-1542.

Garrett Park Listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong at Chris.s.strong@gmail.com.

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:

www.garrettpark-md.gov

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Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

The Garrett Bugle is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the Bugle is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:
President: Chris Strong (Chris.s.strong@gmail.com)
Co-Vice-Presidents: Mario Grande and Cathy Rinzel
Treasurer: Todd Harris
Secretary: Lara Hines
Members at large: Leslie Bethke-Pope, Mike Grieb, Kathryn Mitchell

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to Bugle staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Art at Penn Place

Beginning Monday, February 22, Robert LeMar, Garrett Park artist, will be featured at the Penn Place Gallery. Robert attended the Maryland College of Art and Design where he became excited about the work of Rothko, Rauschenberg, Johns, Indiana, and Thiebaud. Robert is inspired by light, color, and the three-dimensionality of objects. Robert wants his paintings to have simplicity and a bold presence.

Robert's oil paintings, along with work by Garrett Park artist Martha Seigel, will also be on display at the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health, beginning January 15.

Bert Zbar

GIVES Tea and Meeting

GIVES will hold a Sunday afternoon tea and annual meeting at the Town Hall on Sunday, February 7, from 3 to 5 pm. We'll be honoring Glenda Ingham for her 10 years of service as president of GIVES. In addition, we'll be thanking the many volunteers who have collected at the post office. All are invited, and if you know of any new neighbors who are interested in helping out with GIVES, bring them along. This is a dessert potluck, so any culinary contributions are welcome. (In case of inclement weather on February 7, the back-up date is February 21.)

We introduced gift cards in December, which proved popular and are always available anytime you make a donation. We'll be dropping off toiletries and other supplies to Thrive D.C. later this month. Stay tuned for other projects as we gear up for another productive year. Remember, 100 percent of the donations go to American Friends Service Committee and Thrive D.C.

As Glenda steps down, Rana Koll-Mandel and Nancy Walz have taken over as co-presidents. We look forward to introducing ourselves to you on February 7. Karen Anderson will continue as treasurer.

For further information, please contact Rana or me anytime.

Nancy Walz

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Green Again

Robin Daly and Matt Nau paid for this month's green banner. They demanded that I include the following: "Our contribution is in honor of our friend and neighbor, Mary Moyer. Mary, through her volunteer efforts, epitomizes the small-town feel that made us fall in love with Garrett Park. When we first moved to GP, 10 years ago, we found our neighbor volunteering at the GP Elementary School, where our girls were new students; at Holy Cross Church as a pianist at the Sunday mass that we attended; and writing for our neighborhood newsletter, the *Bugle*. Mary still volunteers in all of those places (and others). We appreciate her contributions toward making Garrett Park such a special place." After such a glowing tribute, all I can say is that it feels good to be appreciated by such nice neighbors. Many thanks.

We are now in the process of doubling up the donations already given, which will cover us until May 2010. Anyone else like to get on the list? Please send your contribution to Mary Moyer, Box 98, with a check made out to the Citizens Association. Many thanks.

Remember, there are Citizens Association dues for each family living in Garrett Park. Yearly dues are \$20 per family or \$10 per individual and can be sent to Box 456. Envelopes are included in this issue to make it easier for you to pay. Money is running tight for the Citizens Association and in particular the *Bugle*, so anything you can do to help will be appreciated. The sponsorship of the green banner now costs \$60, but you can choose to share the honor with a neighbor or two.

Mary Moyer

Book Talk, March 7

The Women's Club is sponsoring a talk by Andrea Rugh in the Town Hall, March 7, from 4 to 6 pm, about her new book, *Simple Gestures: A Cultural Journey Into the Middle East*. The book relates her experiences over 40 years living and working in 8 countries of the Middle East: Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Andrea came to know people from many walks of life as she played multiple roles: As mother, she became friendly with local families. As the wife of a diplomat who later became ambassador in two countries, she came to know royal women in the Gulf. As a professional anthropologist, Andrea worked as a technical advisor for USAID development projects in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa; as a research associate for the Harvard Institute of International Development; and for Save the Children and UNICEF in Pakistan and Afghanistan. She is currently an adjunct scholar at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C.

For additional information on the event, contact Celia Peacock.

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Women’s Club News

The holiday season was a busy one for the Women’s Club. We hosted Santa at the Town Hall for all good children to visit. It was a delightful afternoon, thanks to the hard work of Jean Horan and Phil Schulp. Special appreciation goes to George Oakley (Mr. Georgie), who provided superb entertainment for the children as they awaited Santa. (We would like to see some of the pictures taken by the parents.) This year, we added a clothing drive, asking folks to donate some gently used clothing to those in need during an especially harsh winter climate. An abundance of clothing was collected, which was taken to the Family Justice Center by Jim and Geri Fitzgerald. This was a great lesson for all—to give as well as to receive.

The holiday decorating contest was inaugurated for the town this year, and the town has never looked so beautiful. Each participant was judged by members of the Women’s Club, and each winner received a sign placed on their lawn, announcing their award. Awards were as follows:

- Best House: 11400 Rokeby Ave (Kacky Chantry and Dennis Collins)
- Best Yard: 10909 Kenilworth Ave (Todd and Dawn Harris)
- Best Door: 4409 Oxford St (Bonnie and Wally Bass)
- Most Energy-Conscious: 10918 Clermont Ave (Suzie and Bob Gifford)
- Most Creative: 10919 Montrose Ave (Gabriela de la Garza and Victor Vergara)
- Charming: 4422 Strathmore Avenue (occupants unknown)

Congratulations to all. This event will be held again next December, with new categories and new signs. Watch the *Bugle* for news about the contest.

Save the date! The annual Progressive Dinner will be held on May 22. You may be contacted to

help. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and visit other houses in Garrett Park. Anyone wishing to volunteer should call the chair, Jean Horan, at 301-942-6986.

Garrett Park tee-shirts, with artwork by the late Donal McLaughlin, are still available for \$10 each. Contact Kathy Hedge if you would like to buy one.

The Garrett Park Women’s Club is open to all women who are residents of Garrett Park.

Presenting Romance, Feb. 12

To help you start your Valentine’s Day weekend in the proper mood, on Friday, February 12, the Garrett Park Film Society is showing *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (French, 1964, PG), a classic love story from Jacques Demy, with Catherine Deneuve in her first major role. Set to the music of Michel Legrand, the dialog is entirely sung, and the effect is “a knockout.”

Bring your date for dinner (7 pm) before the film, and enjoy a classic French meal prepared by local chefs. Cost is around \$10 per person. Wine and beer will also be on offer along with popcorn, nuts, soda, and bottled water. Prices for drinks range from \$1 to \$5.

It is not too late to become a member of the Film Society. There are eight films remaining in the 2010 series. Membership entitles you to free admission to the films, coupons good for soda, bottled water, popcorn and nuts, and occasional discounts on meals or other perks. Contact Suzanne Grefsheim for a membership form. If you aren’t a joiner, but still want to see a film, admission at the door is \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

All films are shown at the Town Hall starting at 8 pm. We hope to see you there!


The Garrett Park Film Society

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ From the PO: please pick up your packages—they are running out of space! And make sure you pay your mailbox rent as soon as it comes due. If after 10 days you have not, your box will be closed and you will have to pay a fee to reopen it, if it hasn't been assigned to someone else.
- ♪ Dave Almy seems to have recovered from his shoulder surgery. He was seen driving his truck around town. And Cathy Rinzel is putting her new knee to good use walking everywhere.
- ♪ We seem to be losing trees this year due to collapse. A big pine across from the Morgans' house came down during the snowy weather, and one next to the Benjamins on Kenilworth caused some anxious moments by creating a gas leak and making all sorts of wires come down.
- ♪ Last month, 250 paper copies of the *Bugle* were picked up at the post office (there are about 375 houses in town). We hope everyone who didn't get a copy was reading it online, but if you miss the deadline for pickup (one week after it is put in Penn Place Lobby), you can call Peggy Pratt or Mary Moyer to arrange to get a copy.
- ♪ Norbert & Elaine Kraich have moved to Bethany Beach after 40 good years in Garrett Park. Write to them at 116 Wellington Pkwy, P.O. Box 341, Bethany Beach, Delaware 19930. Just like in Garrett Park, they have to pick up their mail, so you need to use their post office box number or the mail gets returned to sender!
- ♪ GP Swimming Pool Board is accepting applications for summer 2010 employment. Send applications for lifeguard or desk attendant positions to Box 244, GP by March 1.

Jobs List

Various young folks have signed up to provide the services below:

Snow shoveling:

Baby sitting:

Computer assistance:

For names and contact information, see the paper version of the *Bugle* or call Elizabeth in the Town Office: 301-933-7488. If you want your name on one of these lists (or any other), please call Elizabeth.

Participate in the Musicale!

The annual Garrett Park musicale raises funds for a music scholarship for a 5th grade student at Garrett Park Elementary School. The late Ilah Gieser of Garrett Park, in a gesture of generosity, conceived the idea of an annual \$1,000 scholarship to fund a year's private lessons for a worthy young musician in the local community. To raise money for the scholarship, we hold a musicale every spring to showcase a rich variety of vocal and instrumental talent.

The next musicale will be held on Sunday, May 16 (the Sunday after Mother's Day), at 4 pm. If you'd like to play or sing on the program, please contact Sue Petito at 301-942-1732. We showcase all accomplishments! Interested in singing in a small chorus? The Town Singers always welcome new and returning voices. It's fun and supports the next generation of music-makers. Come join us!

GPES

Garrett Park Elementary is looking for Career Day speakers. If you have a job that you would be willing to explain to elementary school students, please consider volunteering. This year Career Day will be held on May 21 in the afternoon. If interested, contact Counselor Shana Schnaue at school (301-929-2170).

Also, International Night occurs on Saturday, February 20, from 6 to 9 pm at the school. At this annual event, families showcase their ancestral homes, students participate in a multicultural performing arts presentation, and families dress in traditional clothing from their countries. Contact Jean Horan (philpub1@aol.com) or Hillary Sloate (hillary@hillarymosaic.com) if you would like to volunteer for the event or have any questions. The school would welcome any GP residents to attend who would like to sample a bit of the world.

If you have an incoming Kindergarten student, contact the school as soon as possible to sign up for Kindergarten Orientation, which will be held on April 15 and 16.

Mary Moyer

Garrett Park Yoga

The Garrett Park yoga class needs additional students to join their sessions to enable them to keep going. There is a multilevel yoga class at Town Hall on Tuesday nights from 8 to 9:15 p.m. The class is based upon Iyengar and classical style yoga and focuses upon alignment, posture, strength, relaxation, and flexibility. This is a well-rounded class for both beginners and experienced students. The next class begins Tuesday, January 19, and runs January 26, February 2, and February 9. Fee: \$70. Come give it a try—you will be surprised at the benefits. Contact teacher Mark Suresh for more information: 202-549-6621, m.s.s.@earthlink.net.

Letter from the Mayor

We residents of Garrett Park are justly proud of our past: it is an eventful history that is worthy of recollection and preservation. That's why we are particularly pleased that a group of dedicated residents have formed the Archives Committee, to continue the work of Barbara Shidler and others who have worked so hard to document and conserve the tangible history of the town.

Even more important is the future of Garrett Park, embodied most especially in our youngest residents. I want to thank Ida Sullivan and the members of the Parks and Open Space Committee for yet another improvement to Cambria Park: the aging play equipment has been replaced with a brand-new, state-of-the-art playground, including a spring "ladybug" in recognition of our own Garrett Park Swim Team.

Another key—and distinctly Garrett Park—element of our children's future is represented by the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School, founded here and in operation since 1953... just about half the existence of the town itself. As you know, the town has been involved for quite a while in the potential acquisition of the Garrett Park Estates Park so that the Nursery School can continue to be a part of the future of Garrett Park.

The metaphor of a "three-legged stool" is vastly overused in current political rhetoric, but in fact the potential transfer of the Nursery School property to the town from the Montgomery County Parks Department has resolved itself into three crucial issues:

Transfer of property. The deed that the Department of Parks proposes for transfer of the property to the town expressly continues covenants in the 1948 deed of the property to the Parks Department by the Board of Education. These covenants would constitute a cloud on the town's ownership of the property, and would thus constrain what the town could do in the future, both in the use of the property and in its disposition if it ever became necessary, for financial or other considerations, to sell or transfer the property. Although the town fully expects the successful continuance of the Nursery School's use of the property, a deed is a document in perpetuity, and no one

can foresee what the town may wish, or need, to do in the future. While we assume the smooth future operation of the Community Center, we would be breaking faith with our successors if we accept a transfer with potential problems. The Parks Department is aware of our concerns; Councilmembers Beth Irons, Hans Wegner, and I are meeting with Parks personnel this week to seek resolution of the issue.

Lease. Councilmembers Chris Petito and Phil Schulp are the town's representatives for this aspect of the matter, and they will hold discussions with the Nursery School regarding a long-term lease for the Community Center. We anticipate no problems reaching a mutually agreeable lease, the primary aspect of which will be a token rent by the Nursery School to the town in exchange for the Nursery School assuming financial responsibility for rehabilitation and upgrade of the Community Center, as well as paying ongoing operational costs. Why do we need to agree on the terms of a lease before we are certain that we have possession of the property? Because a lease is a necessary ingredient in the Nursery School's ability to receive hoped-for State funds. Which brings us to the "third leg"...

Finance. As much as \$300,000 or more may be necessary to rehabilitate the Community Center structure and make it fully compliant with code and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The Nursery School has assumed responsibility for raising the necessary funds. In the largest component of the fundraising, the Nursery School has applied to the State of Maryland for a so-called "bond bill" grant. Please look for future notices that will seek our assistance in supporting the necessary legislation in Annapolis for the "bond bill," and then write or call legislators in support of the grant. To meet the remaining fundraising needs, the Nursery School will rely on its own resources and the generosity of alumni, town residents, and others. Keep your eyes open for those fundraisers... Let's all do our part to assure the healthy future of Garrett Park by securing the future of the Nursery School.

Chris Keller



**9am-9pm
Mon - Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday**

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